



# Insight

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## A Veterans Day message

November 11, 1954, became a day to honor American veterans of all wars with the approval of Public Law 380 on June 1, 1954. Four months later, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the inaugural Veteran's Day Proclamation. "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veteran's organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands."

I want to take this opportunity to remind every INSCOM Soldier, civilian and family member to take a few moments this Veteran's Day and remember those past and present who have served our country and its citizens in the name of liberty.

This is a day set aside to honor and remember those men and women who came to our nation's call throughout our 228-year history. From the Minutemen at the Battle of Concord to the Soldiers of the "Big Red One," 1st Infantry Division, currently serving in Iraq, our nation's fighting force continues to show why we are considered the best military in the world.

It is this bond with our past that makes the U.S. military what it is today. We show our

compassion as we give much needed school supplies and play equipment to Iraqi children and our tenacity as we move steadily forward in the protection of the burgeoning democratic governments of Iraq and Afghanistan. It takes a special person to wear the uniform; our ranks are filled with individuals who understand their duties and responsibilities to each other, the nation, and the world. We are doing this today, with an all volunteer active, reserve and National Guard force.

Today, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coastguardsmen are serving in 120 nations around the globe. You are standing on point in a battle against tyranny and providing a glimmer of hope and freedom to the Afghan and Iraqi people.

The global war on terrorism is a different kind of war, like none before it - and it is far from over. Our mission is unique both in the Middle East and around the world. Our main purpose is to end terrorist threats in those countries and abroad, but we are also trying to help instill the concepts of liberty and equality. All are equally important tasks that will make the world a safer place and give the people of Iraq and



DA photo

Afghanistan their freedom.

INSCOM's intelligence Soldiers and civilians are on the ground with their fellow warfighters, and they are making undeniable contributions. I am proud to be your command sergeant major. If it were not for your efforts, the warfighters would be taking on the enemy without a very important asset - viable actionable intelligence.

Whether it's just a moment of silence with your families or paying homage at one of the many hallowed sites in the area, I encourage all of you to remember those who secured our freedom in the past and those who continue that effort today on this Veteran's Day.

# INSCOM unit gets new name



*courtesy photo*

***The 138th Military Intelligence Company was activated during a ceremony Oct. 20.***

**by Gene Rector**  
Macon Telegraph

**ROBINS AIR FORCE**  
BASE, Ga. - The Army element of the 116th Air Control Wing changed its name during formal ceremonies at the Museum of Aviation Oct. 20.

Company C, of the 297th Military Intelligence Battalion was deactivated and the 138th Military Intelligence Company was activated to streamline communications and lines of control, according to Col. Larry Fleniken, the 116th's Army group commander.

"The only thing we did today was change the name of the organization," said Fleniken. The previous structure required two lines of communication - one to elements of the 297th at Fort Gordon, Ga., and also to the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command. "This is

just an opportunity to streamline communications with our higher headquarters," he said.

The Army has 109 soldiers and two civilians assigned to the almost 3,000-person 116th, the nation's only Joint STARS wing. The unit's 16 Boeing 707 aircraft are configured with side looking radar, mission computers and communications gear that can detect, identify, track and relay target information to commanders on the ground and in the air.

The on-board crew - four to fly the aircraft and 18 mission crew members - includes at least three Army representatives, including one officer and two non-commissioned ground station operators.

"I'm not an expert on F-15s and my Air Force counterparts are not necessarily experts on the Army," Fleniken said.

"That's the jointness of it. We bring the two services together, do a much better job and do it much more efficiently."

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photo by Brian Murphy

**Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, speaks on actionable intelligence during the Association of the United States Army convention in Washington D.C., Oct. 26. "The heart of our intel challenge is not collection - it's to fully leverage what we've already collected to increase our situational awareness and understanding," Kimmons said.**

## Government policy on voting

The Federal Government has a longstanding policy of granting employees limited time off from work (i.e., excused absence) to vote in Federal, state, county, or municipal elections. Agencies have discretionary authority to grant excused absence to the extent that such time off does not seriously interfere with agency operations. Typically, polling places are open for extended periods of time. Therefore, excused absence should rarely

be needed.

INSCOM normally receives a number of questions about excused absence for the purpose of voting in a presidential election. Here are guidelines when considering excused absence for voting in unusual situations:

- Generally, where the polls are not open at least three hours either before or after an employee's regular work hours, supervisors may grant a limited amount of excused absence

that will permit the employee to report for work three hours after the polls open or leave from work three hours before the polls close, whichever requires the lesser amount of time off.

- If an employee's voting place is beyond normal commuting distance and vote by absentee ballot is not permitted, the employing agency may grant excused absence (not to exceed one day) to allow the employee to make the trip to the voting place to cast a ballot.



# What does being a veteran mean?

**Commentary by James Hubbard**  
INSCOM Public Affairs

This started as a project for an exhibit, but after reading some of the replies, I thought that this question went much deeper than could be summed up in a few sentences.

As a veteran with 21 years of military service, I have strong feelings about being a veteran. This feeling is one of pride in knowing that I served my country, and a sense that I have paid my dues.

You don't have to be a veteran to pay dues for our country, but as we are approaching Veteran's Day, we who are veterans understand the feeling that comes from having been in uniform, and the possibility of being in harm's way for the sake of keeping our nation safe and free.

On many occasions, I have been in a strange place, not really knowing anyone, but when a veteran found out that I was prior military, we became instant friends, and the war stories began to flow. This experience has happened to many veterans.

When I visit my uncle, in Stick Ville (really Natural Bridge, Va.), he usually navigates our conversation to his time in the Navy. He has such fascinating stories about what it was like during his time around World War II. I don't think he shares them with his kids, because only one son is a veteran. He probably doesn't feel that the others would understand.

The kindred spirit of veterans transcends beyond wars or length of service. It doesn't matter how long you were in the uniform, still serving, or whether you saw combat.

If you are a veteran, you are a veteran. You belong to that exclusive club of fellows and ladies who gave a measure of themselves for their country. That veteran status, in itself, creates a certain amount of respect among each other and the rest of the country.

While working on a temporary job, a young man asked if I had been in the military. When I

told him that I had been, he said that he noticed that people who had been in the military had a controlled behavior that distinguished them from people who had not been in the service. I didn't ask if this was good or bad, but it did make me feel that I shared something with my veteran comrades.

When I celebrate Veterans Day Nov. 11, I will do so with a renewed sense of pride, and I will remember not only the fallen, but also my fellow veterans around me. It is we, and our sacrifices, that make this nation strong.



*photo by James Hubbard*

**Loretta Boulden is one of many veterans who serve throughout INSCOM.**

*courtesy photo*

*After Company C, of the 297th Military Intelligence Battalion was deactivated and the 138th MI Company was officially activated, the Soldiers celebrated the ceremony with cake at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. Oct. 20.*

## Thrift Savings Plan opens

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season began Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 31.

During this open season, employees covered by CSRS and FERS can increase their maximum contributions to 10 percent and 15 percent respectively. The IRS elective deferral limit is increasing to \$14,000 for 2005.

Employees that elect to terminate their TSP contributions during open season are permitted to participate in the next open season, which will be April 15 - June 30. Termination actions will be effective at the end of the pay period in which they are generated.

TSP Catch-Up (TSPC) for 2004 stays in effect until the

pay period ending Dec. 11.

Employees that desire to make new elections for TSPC for 2005 will be able to create those elections during the pay period Nov. 28 - Dec. 11. The limits for 2005 will increase from \$3,000 to \$4,000 annually. Due to the changing IRS limits, employees must make a new TSPC election each year. A new chart for deductions per pay period will be placed on the ABC-C website prior to Nov. 28.

Employees will be able to create their transactions either through the Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) by accessing the homepage (<https://www.abc.army.mil>) or through the Interactive Voice Re-

sponse System (IVRS) by dialing 1-877-276-9287.

The EBIS system requires use of the Point-of-Entry (POE) password and the Personal Identification Number (PIN). IVRS requires a PIN only. If employees do not remember either their POE password or PIN, they can create a new one by accessing either EBIS or IVRS, and following the instructions.

Technical assistance is available by contacting the Southwest Civilian Personnel Operations Center (SWCPOC) Help Desk at DSN 856-2000 or 785-239-2000 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Central Time (CT) on normal business days.

# Looking back at The Continental Congress

by Karen Kovach  
INSCOM History

The history of American Intelligence began with the Revolutionary War. The Continental Congress established many precedents for intelligence activity. It dictated the first requirements for an oath of secrecy for those employed in sensitive positions. It also established a counterintelligence system utilizing undercover agents, authorized covert action operations and propaganda activity, and adopted rules governing mail intercept. Recognizing a need to know popular opinion abroad, the congress established a program to gather foreign publications for analysis - what is now termed open-source collection.

The Continental Congress adopted its own oath of secrecy, one more stringent than the oaths of secrecy it would require of others in sensitive employment Nov. 9, 1775.

"Resolved that every member of this congress considers himself under the ties of virtue, honor and love of his country, not to divulge, directly or indirectly, any matter or thing agitated or debated in con-

gress, before the same shall have been determined, without the leave of the congress: nor any matter or thing determined in congress, which a majority of the congress shall order to be kept secret. And that if any member shall violate this agreement, he shall be expelled from this congress, and deemed an enemy to the liberties of America, and liable to be treated as such, and that every member signify his consent to this agreement by signing the same."

The origins of our foreign intelligence undertakings rest in the Continental Congress. It was that body that established our first foreign intelligence directorate, the Committee of Secret Correspondence, in Nov. 1775. The Continental Congress protected intelligence sources and methods by authorizing deletion of the names of those employed by the committee or with whom it had corresponded. There was also a strong element of tradecraft in the use of codes and ciphers, chemical secret writing and letter-drops in intelligence communications between the Committee of



Secret Correspondence and its overseas agents.

The Continental Congress established Secret Journals governing sensitive intelligence and foreign relations matters and imposed restrictions on access to and the copying of them.

With victory over Britain, the new nation began writing its Constitution. The Constitutional Convention provided in Article One for the continuation of the Secret Journals. A resolution was unanimously passed, and included in the Secret Journals, authorizing the Secretary of State to open any letter, except those to and from members of congress, in any post office, "for reasons of national interest."

## Make a difference

MyPay, the online pay account information system of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) inaugurates new enhancements and upgrades for all users.

All myPay users can now assign a "restricted access PIN" to a designated individual to view the information, and/or add a personal email address, so users are notified of pay changes and other items of interest. For more information on these changes and others, please visit the myPay Web site at: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.